

January 2014

State Offices will be closed  
January 20, 2014

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What's on the NDE homepage

Meet our new commissioner  
Dr. Matthew Blomstedt

<http://www.education.ne.gov/>

In 1994, Congress set aside a federal holiday as also a day of service to recognize Dr. King's legacy. The days calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems. The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community." Selected from a host of online ideas from the Corporation for National and Community Service. <http://mlkday.gov/index.php>. Remember Nebraska is rated 5th in the nation for volunteerism.



### HONOR WITH THE FIRST LADY'S OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS.

An annual recognize to recognize individuals from all ages, organizations and projects across the state. Nomination process concludes February 15 with the award banquet in April. Numerous area are available for students, student group, school volunteers and leadership.

**Outstanding Community Partnership in Education (Group Award):** Recognizes partnership among community organizations, schools, government agencies, or others – potentially including national service – that demonstrate how cooperation and combining resources bring significant advantages to education.

**Outstanding Business Support for Education:** Recognizes a business that demonstrates community involvement by encouraging employee volunteerism and active participation in a school or district.

**Outstanding School Volunteer Program:** Recognizes a school or district that demonstrates community involvement by encouraging and supporting student volunteerism through service clubs, service-learning, civic engagement initiatives and other activities.

### Youth Volunteer Leadership

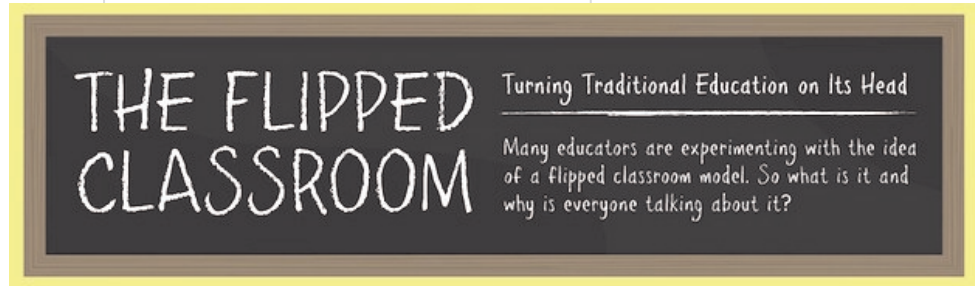
**Outstanding Student Leader:** Recognizes a student volunteer who holds leadership roles in student organizations, student councils or student service clubs that has demonstrated exemplary leadership skills.

Get your forms today to nominate at [www.serve.nebraska.gov/awards/awards.htm](http://www.serve.nebraska.gov/awards/awards.htm)

The drive to increase technology use in classrooms has many asking whether the investment is more fizzle than bang, and whether it's too early to tell how wisely the money is being spent. Education author Peg Tyre has investigated the use of iPads, one of the most popular classroom additions, in TakePart. She concludes that iPads in education may offer some new teaching techniques, but by themselves, they may not be better than traditional, cheaper methods. The classroom used to be about chalkboards, textbooks, teachers speaking directly to groups of kids, and worksheets. The iPad can take any of these roles: but in which role is it most effective? When iPads replace textbooks, they are perhaps least effective. Downloading an e-book to an iPad does the same thing that a textbook does, but one book is probably less expensive per year than the iPad. Tyre quotes another education writer, Lee Wilson,

to the effect that textbooks may be about 20% the cost of iPads, and textbooks can be used many years in a row without electronic damage. Substituting for the teacher may be

lesson. Some schools have been using this model exclusively and can integrate technology like tablets effectively. Tyre explains that there are other ways the iPads in



among the iPad's most effective roles. Of course, the teacher must record, upload or otherwise choose the material that the tablet presents. But once a lecture or film is on the tablet, the teacher can walk away while a group of students watches it. If the teacher only works with the students after they have learned the material presented on the iPad, she is using the "flipped learning" model in which her role is to explain, correct, and give mini-lessons as students work on projects or homework that responds to the

schools can fill part of the teacher's role: Other schools, including a rapidly expanding chain of charter schools that serve low-income children, are employing what they call a "blended learning" model.

Article courtesy of Education News  
Read the entire article at <http://www.educationnews.org/technology/how-much-are-ipads-really-helping-kids-in-the-classroom/>

**EDUCATION NEWS**

## Oregon School's Parents Overwhelmingly Buy In To iPad Program

Read entire article at Education News  
<http://www.educationnews.org/technology/oregon-schools-parents-overwhelmingly-buy-in-to-ipad-program/>



- CNN sought data from 37 institutions, 21 responded.
- CNN found 7%-18% of basketball, football students in many schools read poorly
- Experts say it's hard for a busy college athlete to improve reading ability in just four years
- Students in basketball and football programs could read only up

CNN Special Report available

[http://www.cnn.com/2014/01/07/us/ncaa-athletes-reading-scores/index.html?hpt=hp\\_t1](http://www.cnn.com/2014/01/07/us/ncaa-athletes-reading-scores/index.html?hpt=hp_t1)

## Sports VS Education



Staggering achievement gaps between college athletes and peers within the same institution

Revised January 2014

## Training our future teachers:

A new report from the National Council on Teacher Quality investigates the extent to which America's traditional teacher-preparation programs offer research-based strategies for candidates to better manage classrooms from the outset. Most programs can correctly claim at least some classroom-management instruction, but it's often scattered throughout the curriculum. Most programs do not draw from research when promoting classroom-management strategies, and instruction is divorced from practice (and vice versa). There is also a pervasive notion that teachers should be able to rise to a level of instructional virtuosity that eliminates the need for defined strategies in classroom management. Finally, the edPTA performance assessment has yet to specify explicitly what teacher candidates ought to demonstrate as classroom managers. The report identifies five strategies essential to classroom-management success: establish and teach classroom rules to communicate expectations for behavior; build structure and establish routines to help guide students in a wide variety of situations; reinforce positive behavior, using praise and other means; consistently impose consequences for misbehavior; and foster and maintain student engagement by teaching interesting lessons that include opportunities for active student participation. Read the report or download at [http://www.nctq.org/dmsView/Future Teachers Classroom Management NCTQ Report](http://www.nctq.org/dmsView/Future+Teachers+Classroom+Management+NCTQ+Report)

 National Council on Teacher Quality

Classroom Management

**Chicago Youth Tackle Difficult Issues Through Theater**

**Grades 7-12 | Video | Speaking & Listening**

See how these young people are using theater as a way to deal with tough issues in their lives and humanize their experiences for outsiders. Learn about the facts and myths of immigration or take a sample Citizenship test. Delve into identifying cultural and ethnic values through the Dance Theatre of Harlem. Meet the Little Old Lady Afraid of Anything.



[www.pbslearningmedia.org](http://www.pbslearningmedia.org)

**A Raisin in the Sun Revisited: Introduction**

**Grades 6-12 | Video | Society & Theater**

Ask students to analyze *A Raisin in the Sun* and determine how this play has advanced the discussion of race in America. *A Raisin in the Sun Revisited*, introduces three potent plays, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Clybourne Park*, and *Beneatha's Place*, showing how these three plays all advance the discussion of race in America and alluding to how issues surrounding race in America both have and have not changed since *A Raisin in the Sun* debuted on Broadway in 1959. *Clybourne Park* and *Beneatha's Place* were performed in repertory as *The Raisin Cycle* at Baltimore's CenterStage in the spring of 2013.

Curriculum topics include Theater and Society and Desegregation. Each topic includes additional videos and curriculum Little Rock Nine, Ike and Little Rock, Executive Order 10730, Barbara Johns and Hyde County School Boycott.

Great Plains  
Emerging Tribal  
Writer Award  
Deadline January 22

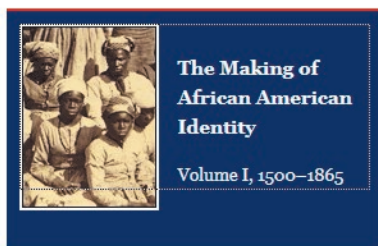
[http://  
greatplainswritersconference.wordpress.com/  
awards/great-plains-emerging-tribal-writer-award-  
submission-guidelines/](http://greatplainswritersconference.wordpress.com/awards/great-plains-emerging-tribal-writer-award-submission-guidelines/)



**United States-Japan Foundation: Elgin Heinz Outstanding Teacher Award**

The United States-Japan Foundation Elgin Heinz Outstanding Teacher Award recognizes exceptional teachers who further mutual understanding between Americans and Japanese. The award is presented annually to two pre-college teachers in two categories, humanities and Japanese language. Maximum award: \$7,500 (\$2,500 monetary award, \$5,000 in project funds). Eligibility: current full-time K-12 classroom teachers of any relevant subject in the United States who have been teaching for at





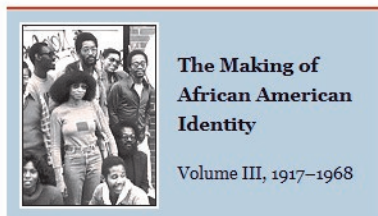
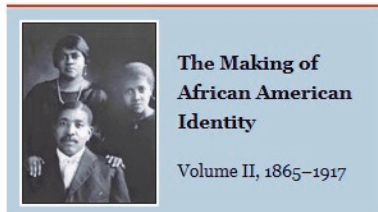
### **The Making of African American Identity** *National Humanities Council*

Free online resources for classroom instruction and professional development.

Each unit is thematically organized with notes and discussion questions.

A massive list of weblinks to additional resources are included.

<http://americainclass.org/primary-sources/>



### **National Indian Parent Information Center**

NIPIC is a non-profit Native American Organization that is funded by a grant from the U.S Department of Education. They serve Native American parents who have children/young adults with disabilities, ages 0-26. Workshops on Special Education Process and Parent Leadership, along with printed information on disability topics, are all free. [www.nipic.org](http://www.nipic.org)

### **Lakota Language Consortium**

Products from colorful textbook, audio cds, flashcards and posters.  
[www.languagepress.com](http://www.languagepress.com)



#### **STUDENT MATINEES & TEACHER WORKSHOPS**

#### **THE APRIL VERCH BAND**

WEDNESDAY  
APRIL 16, 10:30 A.M.

**GRADE LEVEL:**  
UPPER ELEMENTARY-HIGH  
SCHOOL

#### **THE SCIENCE OF SOUND: BUILDING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS USING RECYCLED MATERIALS**

SATURDAY  
MARCH 15 10:00-2:00 PM

#### **ARTS INTEGRATION, LITERACY & THE COMMON CORE**

SATURDAY  
MAY 10 9:00-3:00 PM

Program support Umo'ho' Nation School. Check on field trip funding at [www.liedcenter.org](http://www.liedcenter.org)



### **Why Become a PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovator?**

- 100 select applicants will receive one year of PD including virtual trainings, exclusive resources, membership into a prestigious professional learning community and more!
- 15 top applicants will receive a trip to D.C. for an immersive hands-on training summit focused on best practices in digital learning.

Applications accepted through February 14, 2014.



Indians Into Medicine—summer institute and pathways programs—application deadline for both is March 1<sup>st</sup>. University of North Dakota  
<http://www.med.und.edu/indians-into-medicine/summer-programs.cfm>

Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo Eco Adventure 2014—  
applications due January 31, 2014  
<http://www.omahazoo.com/education/travel-opportunities/>

University of Kansas Medical Center Health Sciences  
Enrichment Institute—applications due March 28, 2014  
<http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-medicine/office-of-cultural-enhancement-and-diversity/student-programs-/health-sciences-enrichment-institute-level-1.html>

## Financial Aid Time

## Scholarships Available

**Most scholarships require that you have filed your FAFSA forms!**

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the application for federal, state and most college-based financial aid which can include grants, work-study and student loans. **Submit the FAFSA** after January 1 to apply for aid for the following academic year – and apply before your college's priority date to get the best financial aid package

<https://fafsa.ed.gov/options.htm>

A screenshot of the FAFSA Filing Options page. The page has a blue header with "FAFSA Filing Options". Below the header, it says "You may choose any of these three methods to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):". There are three bullet points: "Login to apply online (Recommended) or", "Complete a PDF FAFSA (Note: PDF FAFSAs must be mailed for processing) or", and "Request a paper FAFSA by calling us at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or 319-337-5665. If you are hearing impaired, contact the TTY line at 1-800-730-8913." Below the bullet points, there is a section titled "Complete a PDF FAFSA" with instructions on how to select the school year for which you are applying for financial aid. It mentions "The 2014 - 2015 School Year (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015)" and "The 2013 - 2014 School Year (July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014)". At the bottom of the page, there is a blue button that says "NEED HELP?".

EducationQuest—help for all your financial aid and scholarship questions  
Check out their website or call them toll free. <http://www.educationquest.org/>

### Lincoln – Headquarters

1300 O Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
402.475.5222  
800.303.3745  
FAX 402.479.6658

### Kearney

2706 Second Ave.  
Kearney, NE 68847  
308.234.6310  
800.666.3721  
FAX 308.234.2113

### Omaha

Rockbrook Village  
(108th and W. Center Road)  
11031 Elm Street  
Omaha, NE 68144  
402.391.4033  
888.357.6300

Susan T Buffet Foundation Scholarships—deadline to apply is February 1, 2014  
<http://www.buffettscholarships.org/scholarships.shtml>

American Indian College Fund—applications window now open!  
[http://www.collegefund.org/students\\_and\\_alumni/content/how\\_to\\_apply](http://www.collegefund.org/students_and_alumni/content/how_to_apply)

United Negro College Fund—multiple scholarships listed, various closing dates—many close this month!  
<https://scholarships.uncf.org/>

Hispanic Scholarship Fund—various closing dates—many close this month!  
<http://www.hsf.net/en/scholarships/programs/>

American Indian Graduate Center Scholarship resources  
<http://www.aigcs.org/aigc-scholarships/>

### Professional Development: What Works?


January 30, 2014  
3:30-5:00 pm

**WEBINAR: will be taped for future  
viewing**

**Dr. Hilda Borko**  
Professor of Education, Stanford University

REL Central is working with Dr. Hilda Borko to familiarize educators on the characteristics of effective professional development for teachers as it pertains to mathematics instruction. Participants will benefit by deepening their understanding and recognition of research based professional development with applications at the state and local level.

**TO REGISTER**

Webinar 



Native American  
Achievement Symposium  
October 6  
Wayne State College


Hispanic/Latino Summit  
October 20  
Cornhusker Hotel  
Lincoln

### Community and Historical Trauma: Surviving and Recovery

February 20 3:00-4:30 p.m. CST

Region VIII Federal Partners  
Improving mental & Emotional Well-Being  
Visit their website to sign up and see additional webinars upcoming  
<http://www.colorado.feb.gov/index.php?content=82&page=NationalPreventionStrategy>

This webinar will provide a framework for understanding community and historical trauma, and key strategies for survival and recovery. The webinar will highlight American Indians, refugees, and those individuals and communities that have been impacted by community violence.

Webinar 

### Surviving as a Family After Death Dr. Donna Schuurman

February 11— 6:300-8:00 pm  
(free community)

Bryan Plaza Conference Center  
Register: <http://bryanhealth.cvent.com/survive>

or

February 12 8:30-4:00 pm  
(grief professionals)

Southeast Community College  
6.0 contact hours \$99 with lunch  
Jeanette Walsh 402.437.2706  
[jwalsh@southeast.edu](mailto:jwalsh@southeast.edu)



May 28-29

Hastings Middle School  
<https://nmla.shutterfly.com>

### 2014 National Forum on Dropout Prevention for Native and Tribal Communities

April 27-30, 2014  
Prior Lake, Minnesota  
[www.dropoutprevention.org](http://www.dropoutprevention.org)

**Call for Proposals**

Deadline February 21  
Visit their website for registration and proposal submission guidelines

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mailing list

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- Monthly newsletters
- Scholarship information
- Educator opportunities
- AND THERE IS MORE, when we get



**Email us today so we can add you.**



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